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The Nazi Connection — Part 2

Hoover Secretly Viewed Meeting

• This is the second of three articles on Interpol, the international police agency whose staff includes prominent ex-Nazis.

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The late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover established American law enforcement's Nazi Connection almost 30 years ago — by going behind the back of his own government.

Hoover's actions are spelled out in recently declassified American and Ger-

man documents about Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization.)

Documents show that former Secretary of State Dean Acheson warned of Interpol's "Nazi domination" and that a spokesman for former U. S. Atty. Gen. Tom Clark offered a "studied recommendation" that America not unite with Interpol after World War II.

But Hoover secretly attended Interpol's 1946 convention, was elected vice president of the agency, and the United States was inextricably entwined with the

organization, whose top officials since the war — and at least until 1973 — have been men who were leaders of the German Gestapo and the Nazi SS.

As reported in The Sunday News American, Interpol is a private police agency that receives top-secret information from federal, state and local law enforcement agencies — including Baltimore police.

Yet its history is marked by these names and events:

• Its president from 1968 to 1971 (and German representative until 1973) was Paul

Dickopf, who until he fled Germany after four years in the German Security Guards was SS officer 337259.

• Its president during the early war years was Reinhard Heydrich, head of the intelligence service of the SS, who on Jan. 20, 1942 — summoned 15 top Nazis to Interpol headquarters, where the "final solution to the Jewish problem" — mass execution — was worked out.

• When Heydrich was assassinated several months after the conference, he was succeeded as Interpol president by Dr. Ernst Kalten-

brunner, a Gestapo chief who was later hanged at Nuremberg for war crimes.

• Arthur Nebe, director of a German "mobile killing unit" and assistant in Nazi "medical experiments," headed Interpol's International Bureau during the war.

• F. E. Louwage, who served on the Nazi Interpol staff under Kaltenbrunner, was Interpol president from 1946 to 1956 and had J. Edgar Hoover as his vice president from 1946 to 1950, when an apparently furious Hoover

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The Nazi Connection — Part 2

Hoover Secretly Attended Meeting

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pulled the FBI out of its direct link with Interpol.

Under Louwage, an invitation was extended to the United States in May 1946 to join Interpol at its annual convention — with an obvious eye toward America's resuming the membership it had dropped during the war years.

But Acting Secretary of State Acheson, who received the invitation, immediately sent a memo to the Justice Dept. asking for advice, and adding:

"We assume this is same organization founded Vienna 1923, taken under Nazi domination 1938 and headquarters removed Berlin, at which time U. S. ceased relationship."

A Dept. of State confidential memo signed "Kirk" followed quickly, confirming Interpol's background.

Immediately thereafter, a spokesman, for U. S. Atty. Gen. Tom Clark followed

with a memo flatly stating: "It is my studied recommendation that no representative of the government of the United States be designated to attend this meeting."

One year later, Acheson and Clark found that behind their backs Hoover had attended the meeting and had been elected vice president.

That information was transmitted to Acheson from the French Embassy in Washington, which extended invitations to that year's convention on behalf of Interpol.

The memo notes:

"The Dept. of State will recall that the American delegate to the (Interpol) conference in 1946 was Mr. J. E. Hoover, chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington."

Followup memos from Acheson and Clark indicate a sudden change of heart over Interpol with Acheson noting the agency "has been reconstituted."

Clark added in a memo that Hoover had been elected

vice president and, as such, "steps were taken (by Hoover) to make the FBI an official member of (Interpol)."

Thus was the United States entwined with the Nazi-dominated Interpol.

And the matter of Interpol's Nazi domination was never again brought to attention — until documents were presented to Sen. Joseph Montoya's Treasury subcommittee (which helps fund Interpol) by the Church of Scientology's National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice.

The Treasury Dept. became the Interpol hookup in 1950, when Hoover suddenly pulled the FBI out.

At the close of the war, some Communist countries — which, to this day, as member nations, receive American information through Interpol — joined the Interpol network.

One of them, Czechoslovakia, used Interpol in 1950 to track down a group of refugees who had fled to West

Germany.

When Hoover learned of it, he immediately pulled the FBI out and, when Louwage flew to Washington to plead with him to rejoin, Hoover refused.

Official explanation for the FBI's pullout was given only as "special reasons," and it was left to the Treasury Dept. to continue America's Interpol relationship.

As part of that relationship, U. S. law enforcement agencies regularly provide Interpol — and up to about 120 foreign police organizations — secret information.

Interpol has access to the FBI's vast National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

Because of its history — and today's questionable ties — Sen. Montoya, D-N. Mex., will hold hearings this spring on Interpol, and Rep. Edward Beard, D-R. I., has called for a U. S. General Accounting Office investigation of Interpol.

TUESDAY: Interpol 1975.